

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 4 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

One type of known column protector comprises a metal shield which is bolted to the, typically concrete, floor at the base of a column, and shields the column from impact by transmitting the impact force down through the floor, and having an air gap between the metal shield and the column. However, such column protectors require penetrating expansion bolts, which compromise the integrity of the concrete floor, and over time are subject to degrading or working loose. Further, on impact, they are prone to buckling and bending, or the bolts are ripped out of the concrete when subject to impact from a vehicle or MHE[.,,]. They are also time consuming to replace when damaged, and replacement can be made more difficult where the bolts have sheared or bent, or have damaged the concrete floor. Replacement of a single protector can take up to 25 minutes. Examples of such protectors are found in U.S. Pat. No. 5,369,925.

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 12 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

Figures 10A and 10B ~~Figure 10 shows~~ schematically depict the column protector device of Fig. 3 in situ fitted to a column and illustrating movement of the outer shell of the device relative to the inner liner, when ~~and~~ movement of the outer shell for fitment to and removal from the column, and for column inspection;

Please replace the second paragraph on page 14 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

Typically, the outer shell may be formed from a hollow semi tubular substantially cylindrical pipe, of which part of the outer wall has been removed along the whole length of the pipe, such that the outer shell forms a channel having first and second exposed edges peripheral surfaces 405, 406 extending between the first and second ends and running along a whole of the length of the outer shell, and which oppose each other across a gap. Typically, the wall may extend over an angle in the range 260.degree. to 280.degree., about a longitudinal centre line of said outer shell, with a gap in the wall extending over the remaining 100.degree. to 80.degree. of a complete circle. First and second longitudinally extending surfaces 405, 406 in the embodiments shown are substantially parallel to each other, but in other embodiments, the surfaces may extend substantially radially from a center point of the tubular member center line of the substantially tubular outer shell.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 21 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

Referring to ~~Fig. 10~~ Figures 10A and 10B herein, the outer shell 300 is then fitted over and around the column 300, at a position on the column above the inner liner, and then is slid down over the inner liner, so that the outer shell locates to partially enclose the column, as shown in Fig. 5 herein. The outer shell has a degree of flexibility such that it can be forced over the relatively wider part of the column upright, so that the column resides within the channel formed by the outer shell, and the

peripheral edges 405, 406 lie adjacent the lateral sides of the column at a position where the column is relatively narrower.

Please replace the fifth paragraph on page 24, continuing to page 25, with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

Thirdly in a modification of the device, a polycarbonate member in the form of an outer cover 1001 which fits over the outside of the outer shell as shown in Figure 10A, or in the form of an elongate strip 1002 which slides down between the front member of the rack upright and the inner liner can be provided as shown in Figure 10B. The polycarbonate strip serves the purpose of detecting impacts which exceed the design impact for which the column protector can safely absorb energy without the need to replace a column, or the polycarbonate member can be selected to detect impacts of an energy which will not significantly damage the column, but may require replacement of the column protector device after having absorbed such an impact. The polycarbonate member can be inspected for cracks or other damage which indicates that column replacement or column protector replacement is necessary, and such inspection can be achieved either by direct visual inspection of the polycarbonate outer cover, without the need to remove the column protector from its column, or where provided as a strip, by sliding the polycarbonate strip from between the inner liner and the column for visual inspection, again, without the need to remove the column protector from the column.